

Summary of emails sent to City Council immediately prior to the March 6, 2012 meeting where Ordinance 4349 was considered but not adopted. The majority of the 60+ emails acknowledged noise can be an issue and a majority acknowledged that prohibiting/limited rafting is over-regulation.

Reasons for boating in Kirkland

- Dine and shop
- Short distance (use less gas)
- Calm waters
- Juanita Bay is prime lake destination
- Kirkland is a respectful place to boat

Overall feelings about the proposed regulations and boating

- Small percentage of boaters are the rule breakers
- If enacted, Kirkland would be "boater unfriendly"
- Proposed regulations are "overboard"
- If enacted, well-behaved boaters would be penalized
- Boating, including rafting, is a family activity
- There are not many sunny days to boat, let us have our fun
- If you choose to live near a boating waterway, you should expect noise

Reasons of opposition to regulate watercraft noise

- Violates first amendment rights
- Proposed language is vague

Reasons of support to regulate watercraft noise

- Boat noise impacts kayakers
- Boat noise impacts park visitors

If you do regulate noise

- Enforce it by decibel
- Have a "curfew" for boaters to be gone by a certain time at night or no noise after a certain time (9, 10, 11 pm)
- Evaluate the distance requirement
- Address noise that only impacts waterfront residents
- Noise regulations should not be more restrictive than other noise regulations

Reasons of opposition to regulate rafting

- "Spoils the fun"
- Hurt Kirkland's economy (boaters won't come to Kirkland to shop, dine, etc)
- Hurt the boating industry (less boat buyers)
- Over regulation
- Rafting does not increase noise
- Rafting is safe (keeps boats from drifting)
- Rafting is a tradition on Lake Washington
- Tarnish boaters' reputation

- Prohibiting rafting would create animosity in boating community
- Bad for Kirkland and Seattle's boating community
- Boaters will go elsewhere
- There's not enough city resources to enforce
- Boaters are already regulated by education requirements for gray water discharge, speed, and rafting
- Violates first amendment rights

If you do regulate rafting:

- limit the number of side ties to no more than three, four, six vessels

Reasons of support to regulate rafting

- Rafting tends to lead to parties that carry on until late in the evening

General suggestions

- Increase water patrol
- Establish a "no wake" zone; move it to farthest point
- Ordinance should include education language
- Kirkland Police Department should patrol on jet skis during summer months on sunny days
- First enforce existing drinking and speed laws
- Need to identify and delineate Kirkland's jurisdiction in Lake Washington